

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-07

NRC-05 OES-06 FEAE-00 ERDA-05 AF-08 COME-00 SEC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8231

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BR, US

SUBJ: BRAZILIAN PRESS REACTION TO FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA'S
VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. SUMMARY: OVERALL BRAZILIAN PRESS REPORTING AND REACTION TO SILVEIRA'S WASHINGTON TRIP WAS FAVORABLE. STRAIGHT NEWS STORIES EMPHASIZED THE JESTING TONE OF MANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS, THE FRIENDLINESS IN THE FORMAL TOASTS AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS ACCEPTING BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR STANCE AND PRAISING ITS AFRICAN POLICY. MINOR DISCORDANT NOTES WERE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL MIGHT SPREAD TO BRAZIL AND A UPI REPORT, LATER DENIED, THAT SILVEIRA HAD COMPLAINED ABOUT NOT BEING CONSULTED PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S RECENT VISIT TO AFRICA. THE BRAZILIAN PRESS LEAVES THE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT THE SILVEIRA TRIP DEMONSTRATED THE WARMTH AND STRENGTH OF BRAZIL-US TIES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS TREATMENT

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BRAZILIAN PRESS OF OCTOBER 5 AND 6 GAVE PROMINENT

COVERAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER ANTONIO SILVEIRA'S CURRENT WASHINGTON TRIP, SEEING GREATEST NEWS VALUE IN FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF VISIT: (A) A UPI ITEM DATELINED WASHINGTON, AND FRONT-PAGED BY MAJOR DAILIES, REPORTING THAT SILVEIRA HAD COMPLAINED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER OVER THE ABSENCE OF CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S AFRICAN VISIT. ACCORDING TO THE SAME ITEM, CITING UNIDENTIFIED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, THE BRAZILIAN RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA HAS CAUSED "UNEASINESS" TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AND JORNAL DE BRASILIA, HOWEVER, REPORTED THE NEXT DAY THAT DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AT THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND IN ITAMARATY DOUBTED THAT BRAZIL HAD COMPLAINED TO THE UNITED STATES AS REPORTED BY UPI.) (B) SILVEIRA'S TOAST ON OCTOBER 4 AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TOAST AT THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY ON OCTOBER 5 RECEIVED WIDE PRESS PLAY AND CONSIDERABLE COMMENT, WITH FULL TEXTS CARRIED IN MAJOR NEWSPAPERS. THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE SECRETARY'S TOAST WHICH WERE FLATTERING TO SILVEIRA PERSONALLY AND LAUDATORY OF BRAZILIAN LEADERSHIP IN AFRICAN POLICY WERE ALSO GIVEN SPECIAL MENTION IN THE STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS REPORTED IN O ESTADO AND JORNAL DO BRASIL. (C) REPORTS FILED BY BRAZILIAN NEWSMEN REPORTED SECRETARY KISSINGER AS SAYING THE US ACCEPTED BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR POLICY AND THE TREATY WITH WEST GERMANY BUT THAT WHAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT WANT TO SEE WAS NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. (D) REPORTS THAT UNNAMED US OFFICIALS HAD INFORMED SILVEIRA "AS DIPLOMATIC COURTESY" THAT SEC WAS PROBING POSSIBLE ILLICIT PAYMENTS BY LOCKHEED IN BRAZIL (BRASILIA 8615). FOLLOW-UP REPORTING ON OCTOBER 7 FROM WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, PROVIDES NO ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON ALLEGED LOCKHEED INVOLVEMENT.

3. SOME NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THE JOKING TONE IN WHICH THE SECRETARY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER MADE SOME OF THEIR PUBLIC COMMENTS, BUT OTHER PAPERS GAVE STRAIGHT-FACED REPORTING TO STATEMENTS SUCH AS:
(A) BRAZIL WAS PART DEVELOPED AND PART UNDERDEVELOPED AND THEREFORE COULD VEER BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND UNDERDEVELOPED WORLDS AT WILL;
(B) SILVEIRA BELIEVES HIMSELF TO BE SUPERIOR TO KISSINGER
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AND THE SECRETARY, RELUCTANTLY HAS COME TO CONCLUDE SILVEIRA IS CORRECT, AND;
(C) SECRETARY KISSINGER RECOGNIZES "GOD IS A BRAZILIAN."

4. NOT ALL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED ON SILVEIRA'S MEETING WITH COMMERCE SECRETARY ELLIOT RICHARDSON. THOSE THAT DID SAID THE TALKS CONCERNED QUESTIONABLE PAYMENTS BY MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. SILVEIRA'S MEETINGS WITH DIXON, DENT AND

SEAMANS WERE NOTED BRIEFLY BUT THEIR SUBSTANCE WAS NOT REPORTED.

5. EDITORIAL COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

JORNAL DO BRASIL HAD AN EDITORIAL BRIEFLY QUOTING SILVEIRA IN WASHINGTON ON THE NECESSITY FOR THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO HELP THE LESS DEVELOPED. THE EDITORIAL THEN CHIDED SILVEIRA FOR BRAZIL'S POLICY OF INDIFFERENCES TO THE SECURITY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, BRAZIL'S THIRD WORLD STAND AND FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE INCREASING POLITIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. JORNAL DO BRASIL, A FREQUENT CRITIC OF BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY, FOLLOWED UP OCTOBER 7 WITH A BITTER LEAD EDITORIAL CONDEMNING THE TONE OF THE KISSINGER-SILVEIRA MEETINGS. THE EDITORIAL RIDICULED WHAT IT DESCRIBED AS THE SUDDEN AND IMMEASURABLE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND INDICATED THAT PUBLIC BUSINESS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITH THE COOLNESS REQUIRED BY THEIR POSITIONS. IN CLOSING, THE EDITORIAL RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT US-BRAZIL RELATIONS WERE BEING ORCHESTRATED TO CONCEAL REAL DEFICIENCIES.

6. A SIGNED OPINION COLUMN IN THE JORNAL DO BRASIL DREW A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE SECRETARY'S VIEW OF BRAZIL WITH A FOOT IN BOTH THE UNDERDEVELOPED AND DEVELOPED WORLDS AND THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER'S SUGGESTION TO PRESIDENT ERNESTO GEISEL THAT BRAZIL PLAY A ROLE OF INTERMEDIARY IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, WHICH IT WAS NOTED WAS REJECTED BY GEISEL.

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7. THE BRASILIA NEWSPAPERS WERE GENEROUS WITH NEWS AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE FAVORABLE TO THE SILVEIRA VISIT. JORNAL DE BRASILIA HEADLINED "FOR THE AMERICANS BRAZIL'S POLICY IN AFRICA IS RIGHT." BOTH JORNAL AND CORREIO BRAZILIENSE FEATURED THE SECRETARY'S TOAST AND ITS FLATTERING REFERENCES TO SILVEIRA AND THE POSITIVE BRAZILIAN INFLUENCE IN THE FORMULATION OF AMERICA'S AFRICA POLICY. IN THIS VEIN, A CORREIO EDITORIAL CONSIDERED KISSINGER WITH HIS FLATTERING MIGHT BE THROWING SAND IN BRAZIL'S EYES BECAUSE, HAVING SEEN THE CORRECTNESS OF ITS POLICY IN AFRICA, HE NOW WANTS TO FOLLOW SUIT AND TAKE BRAZIL'S PLACE.

8. THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE NUCLEAR COOPERATION TREATY BETWEEN BRAZIL AND WEST GERMANY HAS NOT DRAWN EDITORIAL COMMENT SO FAR. IT WAS WIDELY CARRIED AND FRONT PAGED ON O ESTADO AND JORNAL DE BRASILIA. O ESTADO CLAIMED THAT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNITED STATES WAS NOT OPPOSED TO BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR POLICY.

9. COMMENT: THE SECRETARY GENERALLY GOT MORE COVERAGE IN THE BRAZILIAN PRESS THAN DID FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, WITH MOST OF THE STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE POSITIVE. THE REPORTED ACCEPTANCE BY THE THE UNITED STATES OF THE BRAZIL-WEST GERMANY NUCLEAR TREATY AND THE ALLEGED RECOGNITION OF THE INFLUENCE OF BRAZIL ON AMERICAN POLICY AND THE REIGHTNESS OF ITS COURSE IN AFRICA CAN ONLY BE SOOTHING HERE, EVEN TO NATIONALIST SECTORS SUSPICIOUS OF THE US. THE EXPEDITIOUS PRESS TREATMENT GIVEN THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS BY ITAMARATY SUGGEST THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ITSELF REGARDS THEM AS A USEFUL AND VERY TIMELY REBUTTAL OF A RECENT RESURGENCE OF DOMESTIC PRESS CRITICISMS OF SILVEIRA'S AFRICA POLICY.
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